

D. GENERAL ASSISTANCE – EXPEDITED MEDICAID (GAX)

This section includes information about:

- GAX Program Description;
- Contracted Physicians;
- Referral Process;
- GAX Certification; and
- GAX Denial.

Program Description

1. Clients eligible for GAX receive full scope Medicaid coverage and state funded GAU cash benefits.
2. GAX is Medicaid coverage and can be authorized retroactively up to three months prior to the initial GAU application date when:
 - a. Unpaid medical bills exist;
 - b. Medical evidence documents the client was disabled on the date of requested retroactive medical coverage; and
 - c. The client was financially eligible.
3. Physicians under contract with the Division of Employment and Assistance Programs approve or deny GAX.
4. Clients receiving GAX must have their medical eligibility reviewed at least every 36 months using the procedures in the **INCAPACITY** section.
5. When the Contracted Physician certifies GAX, eligibility continues without a review by the Contracted Physician:
 - a. Through the SSA Administrative Hearing decision if the client is otherwise eligible for benefits;

- b. While the client participates in ADATSA treatment services; or
 - c. When assistance is reopened within six months of termination.
- 6. Use DSHS 14-118, Incapacity Decision to notify financial services to make a program change from GAX to GAU when:
 - a. SSI is denied at the Administrative Hearing
 - b. The client has resided in a public institution for more than 30 days; or
 - c. SSI Facilitation services are terminated.
- 7. Reinstate GAX when a Federal Court system remands a SSI application back to SSA.

Contracted Physicians

- 1. Contracted Physicians are licensed physicians and psychologists under contract with the Department of Social and Health Services - Division of Employment and Assistance Programs.
- 2. GAX request packets may be sent to any physician listed on the GAX Data screen in ICMS.
- 3. Refer issues or concerns about Contracted Physicians to:

Division of Employment and Assistance Programs
SSI Facilitation Program Manager
PO Box 45470, MS 45470
Olympia, WA 98504
- 4. Contracted Physicians provide the following services:
 - a. Certify when a client appears to meet SSI disability criteria;
 - b. Authorize purchase of additional medical evidence and/or describe additional steps the facilitator may take when evidence is inadequate to approve GAX;

- c. Return the completed DSHS 14-333, Physician's Certification for Medicaid to the CSO within five working days; and
- d. Consult with CSO staff to clarify borderline or difficult cases.

Referral Process

1. A client must meet GAU incapacity criteria before requesting GAX.
2. A GAX request should be submitted at the time of the initial GAU determination if the client appears to meet SSA disability criteria.
3. Use DSHS 14-332, Disability Assessment to determine when a client meets SSA disability criteria.
4. Request GAX for all clients who have received GAU for 12 months or more.
5. Request GAX for all GAU clients within 5 working days of the date referred for SSI facilitation services.
 - a. Open the GAX screen in ICMS
 - b. Select a contracted physician from the drop down menu;
 - c. Enter the disability onset date;
 - d. Click 'Letters', choose '14-333', and complete data fields to print DSHS 14-333, Physician's Certification for Medicaid;
6. Send the GAX request packet to a Contracted Physician with the following documents:
 - a. Two copies of DSHS 14-333, Physician's Certification for Medicaid;
 - b. All medical records;
 - c. DSHS 14-050, Statement of Education, Employment, and Health; and
 - d. Stamped self-addressed envelope.

7. Other information that may help the Contracted Physician to decide if the client appears to meet SSI disability criteria:
 - a. DSHS 14-327, Aging and Adult Services Comprehensive Assessment;
 - b. DSHS 14-332, Disability Assessment;
 - c. Personal Observations;
 - d. Substance Abuse Treatment records;
 - e. School records, especially when there is a history of special education; or
 - f. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation records.
8. To expedite a GAX request, on the top of DSHS 14-333, Physician's Certification for Medicaid write:
 - a. "Rush"; and
 - b. Your phone number.

GAX Certification

1. When GAX is approved, use DSHS 14-118, Incapacity Decision to notify financial services to process a program change from GAU to GAX. Include the effective date of GAX coverage and the new incapacity review date, if any.
2. The effective date of GAX is the first of the month in which GAX is approved or the first of the month in which retroactive GAX coverage is approved up to three months prior to the GAU application date.
3. Input approval data at the GAX screen in ICMS and close the GAX screen.

Effective August 1, 2001

WAC 388-448-0180 How and when we redetermine your eligibility if we decide you are eligible for GAX.

When we decide you are eligible for GAX, we may extend your incapacity period up to thirty-six months from the date of the last incapacity decision without requesting additional medical documentation.

- (1) If you remain on GAX at the end of the thirty-six month period, we determine your eligibility using current medical evidence.
- (2) If your application for SSI is denied, and the denial is upheld by an SSI/SSA administrative hearing before the end of the thirty-six month incapacity period, we change your program eligibility from GAX to GAU and adjust the incapacity review date to be sixty days after the administrative hearing date.

CLARIFYING INFORMATION**GAX Denial**

When the Contracted Physician denies GAX:

1. Obtain any additional medical evidence or information recommended by the Contracted Physician;
2. A second GAX request packet may be sent to the same or a different Contracted Physician:
 - a. For a second opinion; or
 - b. When additional medical evidence is obtained.
3. Inform the client of the denial by sending DSHS 14-343, SSI Facilitation Program Medicaid Decision Letter with a copy to the service record.
4. Document the denial in ICMS Case Notes.
1. Close the SSI screen when no further facilitation services will be offered.